

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 08947 251616Z
ACTION SP-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SS-15 L-03
INR-07 PA-01 PRS-01 ACDA-07 MC-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00
EB-07 OES-07 CCO-00 SSM-03 DHA-02 ERDA-05 NSAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8547
INFO USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 08947

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, MASS, ETRD, GW
SUBJ: US ARMS SALES POLICY

REF: (A) STATE 115244, (B) STATE 115408,
(C) STATE 115409, (D) BONN 8699

1. AS FOLLOW UP TO DEMARCHES REPORTED IN REF D,
ECONOMIC COUNSELOR DISCUSSED SUBJECT WITH OBERNOLTE
WHO IS DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY IN FRG ECONOMICS
MINISTRY CHARGED WITH ARMS EXPORT POLICY. ECONOMIC
COUNSELOR DELIVERED TWO NON-PAPERS BASED ON REFTELS A
AND C AND GAVE ORAL BRIEFING BASED ON REF B.

2. OBERNOLTE POINTED OUT THAT GERMAN ARMS SALES
POLICY IS HIGHLY RESTRICTIVE, WITH TOTAL FRG ARMS
AND MILITARY EQUIPMENT EXPORTS AMOUNTING TO ONLY
0.47 PERCENT OF TOTAL GERMAN EXPORTS. HE MENTIONED,
HOWEVER, THAT GERMAN POLICY RE ARMS EXPORTS TO NATO
MEMBERS AS WELL AS AUSTRALIA, SWEDEN AND SWITZERLAND
IS RELATIVELY LIBERAL. HE SAID THAT, IN ANY FUTURE
DISCUSSIONS OF THIS SUBJECT, THE FRG WOULD WANT TO
EXPLORE US POLICY TOWARDS ARMS EXPORTS TO SWITZERLAND
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PAGE 02 BONN 08947 251616Z

AND SWEDEN, AS WELL AS TO IRELAND AND SPAIN.

3. OBERNOLTE WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN
OBTAINING A MORE PRECISE DEFINITION OF THE TERM
"WEAPONS AND WEAPON-RELATED ITEMS" IN PARA 7 (C)
OF REFTEL A. HE PROMISED TO STUDY THE DOCUMENTS
CAREFULLY AND TO INFORM US IF HE HAS ANY FURTHER

COMMENTS.

4. COMMENT: APPLICABLE GERMAN LAW CONTAINS LIST OF
WEAPONS AND WEAPON-RELATED ITEMS. OBERNOLTE APPEARS TO
BE FISHING FOR US LIST.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

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